Production of Vegetables in Kerala

938. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for increasing the production of vegetables in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) A proposal for increasing vegetable production to attain self-sufficiency in Kerala at a cost of Rs. 2863.325 lakhs for 100% Central Assistance during the IXth Plan has been received. Project includes Seed Production, Area Expansion, Post Harvest Management and Research activities. The Project is under examination.

[Translation]

Supply of Poor Quality of Seeds, Pesticides and Fertilizers

939. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that poor quality of seeds, pesticides and fertilizers is being supplied to the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by his Ministry to improve the quality and provide improved quality of these items to farmers;

(d) whether any incidents of bungling in purchase of these items by the Government Departments and their poor quality in the State of Haryana has also been brought to the notice of the Union Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) A few State Governments have reported instances of poor quality of seeds having been supplied to farmers in the previous years. Samples of pesticides and fertilizers drawn in the course of enforcement of Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 respectively show that a small percentage of samples may be sub-standard In terms of the strict specifications of the Orders in force. On the whole, the quality of seeds, pesticides and fertilizers supplied to the farmers is reliable.

(c) All efforts are made to ensure that farmers are supplied seeds, pesticides and fertilizers of good quality. Certified seeds/quality seeds totalling about 68 lakh quintals are made available annually for a range of crops. The Insecticides Act, 1968 is enforced strictly and about 42 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories have been set up for testing the samples of insecticides/pesticides. Similarly, for ensuring supply of good quality fertilizer, there are 57 Fertilizer Testing Laboratories where samples drawn at random are tested and action taken in case the sample is found sub-standard. Enforcement of these laws/ orders ensures that manufacturers supply only quality seeds, pesticides and fertilizers to farmers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Sick Fertilizer Factories in Gujarat

940. SHRI JAISINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some fertilizer factories are being run with the Government assistance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number of sick fertilizer factories in Gujarat;

(d) whether the Government have made efforts to make the sick fertilizer factories in the State viable;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Central public sector fertilizer undertakings in the need of financial assistance are provided budgetary support to the extent possible. Details of the budgetary support extended to these undertakings are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(c) M/s Rama Fertilizers Pvt. Ltd. (RFPL), a fertilizer company based in the state of Gujarat, is registered as a sick company under the provisions of the Sick Industrial